

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMCONSULS PALERMO

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL MILAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENT COMMENCES DEBATE ON PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD

1. THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES WILL TODAY (JULY 12) BEGIN DEBATE ON THE MOTIO DRAFTED AND PRESENTED BY GROUP LEADERS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC, COMMUNIST, SOCIALIST, REPUBLICAN, SOCIAL DEMOCRAT, AND LIBERAL PARTIES WHICH SYNTHESIZES THE PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD REACHED BETWEEN THE PARTICIPATING PARTIES AFTER MORE THAN THREE MONTHS OF INTENSE NEGOTIATIONS. CURRENT EXPECTATIONS ARE THAT THE DEBATE WILL BE CONCLUDED ON JULY 15 BY A VOTE ON THE MOTION AFTER THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES HAS LISTENED TO A SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI IN WHICH HE WILL OUTLINE THE MEASURES WHICH THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO TAKE TO TRANSLATE THE PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD INTO/ CONCRETE LEGISLATION.

2. CONTRARY TO EARLIER EXPECTATIONS, THE SENATE WILL NOT RPT NOT DEBATE THE MOTION THAT IS NOW BEING CONSIDRED IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. THIS DEVELOPMENT
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REPRESENTS SOMETHING OF A VICTORY FOR THE CHRISTIANS DEMOCRATS WHO WISHED TO AVOID ACTIONS WHICH COULD INTERPRETED AS SIGNIFYING A CONFIDENCE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNMENT.

3. ALTHOUGH ITALIAN POLITICAL LIFE SHOWS EVERY SIGN OF WSBNOW FOR THE SUMMER RECESS WHICH WILL BEGIN ON

JULY 29--PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSINS WILL RESUME WORK ON SEPTEMBER 6 WITH PARLIAMENT RETURNING TO FULL SESSIONS THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12--., TWO KEY ISSUES ARE CURRENTLY CLOUDING THE WATER AND OFFER TO KEEP POLITICAL TENSION AT A REASONABLY HIGH LEVEL OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. THE FIRST IS A PROGAM TO IMPLEMENT LAW 382 WHICH PROVIDES FOR A DECENTRALIZATIN OF THE POWER AND COMPETENCE OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND A STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS. WORKING AGAINST A JUL 25 DEADLINE, ALIXED PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION HAS STUDIED AND AMENDED A DECENTRALIZATION PROGRAM PRESENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT. (CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION IS GUIDO FANTI, A PCI DEPUTY AND EX-PRESIDENT OF THE EMILIA ROMAGNA REGIONAL GOVERNMENT). DURING AN 18-HOUR MEETING WHICH BEGAN THE MORNING OF JULY 9, THE CABINET CONSIDERED THE DRAFT PROPOSAL AS IT EMERGED FROM THE COMMISSION. DURING THE CABINET DEBATE, MAJOR DIFFERENCES AROSE OVER THE DRAFT PROGRAM WITH MINISTER OF INDUSTRY DONAT-CATTIN LEADING THE FORCES OPPOSED TO MANY OF THE DECENTRALIZATION PROPOSALS. WHILE OPPONENTS ARE ARGUING PUBLICLY THAT SOME OF THE PROPOSALS AS THEY NOW STAND WILL NOT LEAD TO A MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE PUBLIC DMINISTRATION, THEIR PRIMARY MOTIVES ARE UNDOUBTEDLY POLITICAL. THIS GROUP EARS THE LOSS OF PATRONAGE BY THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS GIVEN THE INCREASED COMMUNIST STRENGTH IN REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE CABINET IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEETING AGAIN JULY 12 TO GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THE SUBJECT AND PRIMARILY TO SEEK A FORMULA ACCEPTABLE TO THE LEFT WHICH WILL ALSO ALLEVIATE THE CONCERNS AND OPPOSITION OF IMPORTANT ELEMENTS WITHIN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC RANKS.

4. THE OTHER ISSUE THREATENING TO DISTURB THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IS THE DRAFT FAIR RENT BILL WHICH IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION IN A SENATE COMMISSION. AGAINST THE OPPOSITION OF THE COMMUNISTS AND THE SOCIALISTS, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS JOINED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OTHER PARTIES INCLUDING THE EXTREME RIGHT HAVE SUCCEEDED IN MODIFYING THE GOVERNMENT'S DRAFT PROPOSAL IN A MANNER WHICH INCREASES THE POTENTIAL RATE OF RETURN LANDLORDS. THE LEFT HAS INTERPRETED THIS SHOW OF FORCE NOT ONLY AS A SETBACK FOR THE INTERESTS OF ITS CONSTITUENTS BUT ALSO AS A RESPONSE BY THOSE ELEMENTS AMONG DC PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD REACHED BY THE PARTY LEADERS.

5. COMMENT. SINCE KEEPING TENSIONS HIGH REPRESENTS A FULL-TIME JOB FOR MANY POLITICIANS HERE IN ITALY, IT IS NOT

SURPRISING THAT THE ATMOSPHERE IS NOT TOTALLY TRANQUIL
IN THE WAKE OF THE INTER-PARTY AGREEMENT ON THE PROGRAM-
MATIC ACCORD AND IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SUMMER VACATION
BREAK. GIVEN THE POLITICAL CAPITAL THAT HAS BEEN
INVESTED IN ACHIEVING THE ACCORD, IT IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN
THAT ITALIAN POLITICAL INGENUITY WILL FIND WAYS OF DEALING
WITH THE DENTRALIZATION AND FAIR RENT PROPOSALS WHICH
WILL AVAOID CREATING SERIOUS POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES
AT THIS TIME.GARDNER

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